Mary Estlin

Bristol, October 18 - 1847.

My dear Mrs Chapman,

Your letter to my Father arrived yesterday, with a long one from Mrs Neal which he is hastily answering by this day's mail, leaving me to acknowledge yours & to say that he really does not know what he could write that would do for insertion in the Liberty Bell. His habit having always been to write with some stated object & to confine himself to whatever circumstances have at the time demanded, he does not know how to set about anything of the nature of an essay, & feels he should fail to produce an article that would be of general interest. His health is not at present good, (at least he has been suffering for the last few weeks from an attack of nervous affection which is increased by any extra head work as well as any bodily fatigue) but, tho' this would be an objection to his undertaking any Irish writing just now, he did not desire me to plead it as his excuse. He has not, as you know, been idle in the Anti-Slavery cause, but has neglected no public or private occasion of calling attention to it, while his own study of the movements is unceasing, & his interest & zeal are consequently [illegible]

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augmented. It seems so strange for us this year to have no ostensible share in the transmission of the small collection of contributions to the Bazaar that I had been intending to send you a few words of explanation as soon as practicable from the unprepared for them being such hurried ones. You will not I am convinced attribute our inaction to diminished interest or weariness in the work. This year has been by no means a less expenditure one of time & money for Anti-Slavery objects than its predecessors. My Father He has been laboring with both these talents in many departments of the field in which he will never become less ardent to his American friends as the agent of our cause especially I now refer to the Unitarians reply to the Clerical invitation & to his progress & to his efforts to procure the publication of F. Douglass Narrative in France. But We have felt that independent of the unusual home demands of this season, it would be impolitic to make ourselves prominent as A. S. advocates by applications for aid for the Bazaar at the very time that my Father is giving offence to many by representing his views of the duty of Free Ministers & Churches

in relation to this question. We think that if another year the doors have be opened after a period of repose, while every effort is made to direct attention to the subject, (although encouraging as friends, & discouraging them, by demanding a speedy result, from examining its merits,) we shall be able to apply our forces with more energy. Your letter to me of some months back + helped us in this determination, by showing that you were not looking for a large amount of aid from abroad this year, & that there were more effectual ways of serving you than by making collections for your work, which will always form the bulk of the contributions in which you have already overstocked. So we have only thankfully received what has been volunteered, & are gratified to find how far many are from forgetting the true object, tho' their minds have been so much diverted by the claims of our own poor. Absence from home & unexceptionable duties have as you perceive compelled us to postpone all active labor connected with preparing for forwarding the offerings, to our indefatigable friends the Miss Carpenters; & these cannot be united to weak hands & shattered nerves during several summer

MS. A. 9. 2. 23, 54

neither presented my own route from
exceeding the hastily prepared book of engrav
wh was forwarded in the box (wh sailed on
15th. I believe) Several additions have been
since, & they are of apparently value, they
will be forwarded by any conveyance other
taking a steam packet wh you late every
but wh will arrive all in time for the
Bazaar. I have frequently wished to write
you, dear Mr Chapman, since the receipt
yr last letter, but my useless hands have
precluded all writing not imperative, I
know you will accept a message as a substi
We trace the progress of all who are embark
in your enterprize with warm interest, &
you can judge how powerful the recent
tidings of the sudden & prompt check, dea
Mr Garrison has received in his career of ju
-stice has made us; & how anxiously we
shall await further tidings, in the fond
hope that the many prayers offered up for
the restoration of one, whom in our short
sightedness we believe must be spared f
his arduous post, will be favorably answ
We watch F. Douglass's course too with m
concern, while conscious that we are in
capable of judging when his true sphere of
labour is, & with much confidence in
his discretion & heartiness.
Believe me, dear Mr Chapman in haste
ever very sincerely yours
Mary Estlin